

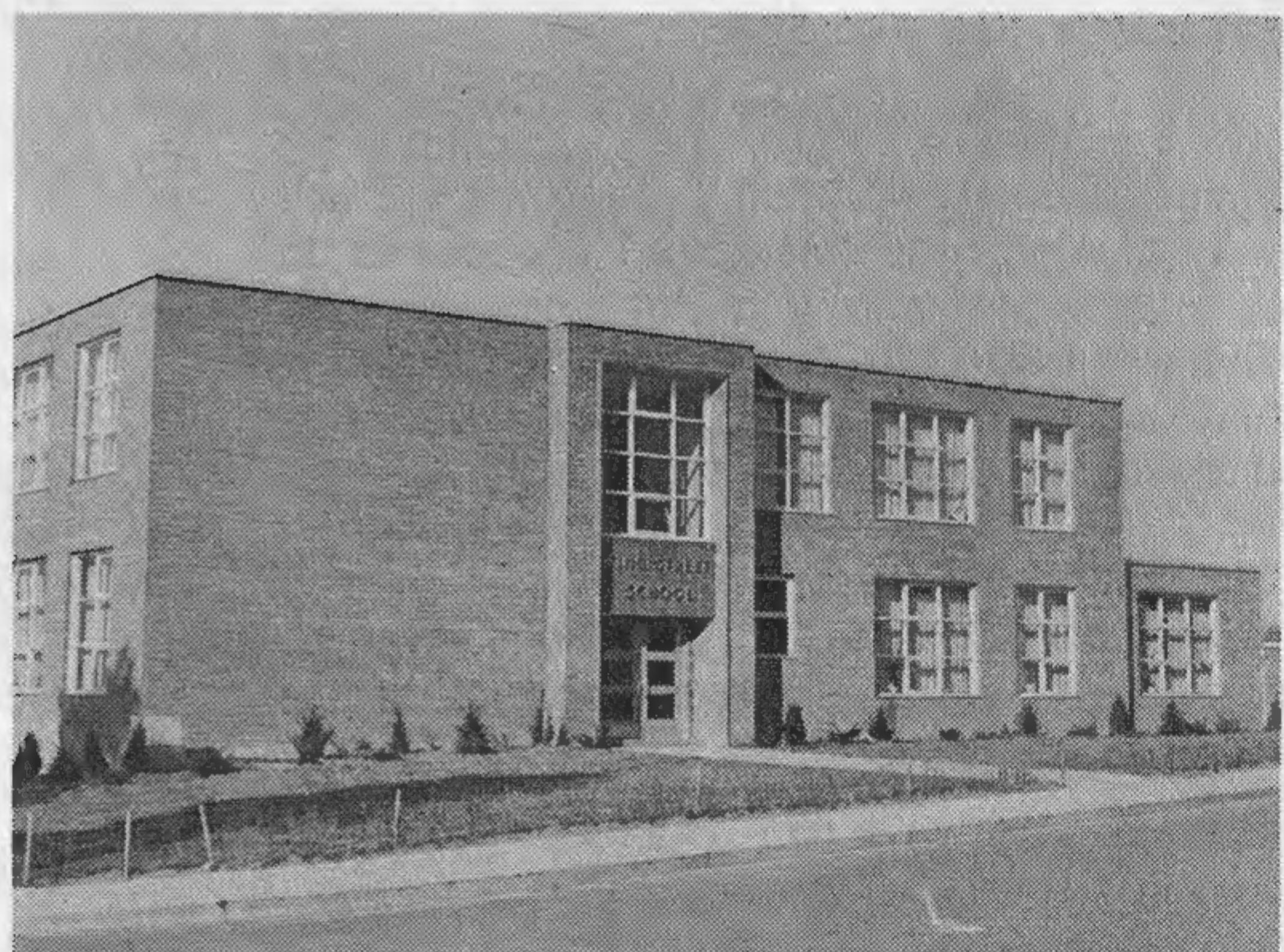
• KING STREET SCHOOL •



1892

The Old

1958



The New

The New King Street School

In the spring of 1956 the Metropolitan School Board refused permission to add two rooms to the old building for the return of the grade six classes. (These had been in Senior Public School since September, 1951.) As a result a start was made on plans for an entirely NEW BUILDING of ten regular classrooms, plus a Kindergarten and a General Purpose Room. This was to be erected on the King Street lawn of the old building.

A former pupil, Mr. Harold Lindsay, was the Architect—Mr. Quipp, chairman of the Property Committee; Mrs. Ella Norman, chairman of the Weston Board of Education, and Mr. C. Marchant, Business Administrator.

Each teacher was asked for suggestions for the plans. In all, the staff submitted a work-book full of ideas. Many of these were incorporated into the plans—hot and cold water in every room, the cupboards under the blackboards, and the use of the slate blackboards from the old school.

During Easter Vacation 1957, the General Contractor, Faehrmann and Co., enclosed the building space by a high plywood fence and moved work huts into the yard.

On the 29th of April, 1957, the first big machine appeared. Within a week the old bell tower, a Weston landmark, had disappeared to make room for the new foundation which runs within two feet of the old building on the King Street side. Many pretty maple trees disappeared and excavation began in earnest.

Building operations continued while children attended classes in the old school under various hardships—noise, danger from machines in the yard, etc.

On Thursday, June 27, 1957, commencing at 1.30 p.m. the Cornerstone laying ceremony was held. Mrs. Norman used the trowel—amid a shower—and the stone was well and truly laid. Buried in the copper container were: a history of the old school, a list of the staff at the time, the names of the members of the Board, the

Board Office Staff, the names of all pupils enrolled at the time, an old book containing the promotions for June, 1896, a copy of the Times and Guide for that day, and some coins as well as a copy of the programme.

A delay in the building was caused from mid-August to mid-October by a Plumbers' Strike. At last, Friday, November 15, saw all boys and girls carrying their belongings into their lovely new rooms.

Classes opened in this new building on Monday, November 18, 1957, at nine o'clock, amid carpenters, painters, electricians, and others.

On the same day demolition of the old building began. This was completed and the excavation for the auditorium on a portion of its site was begun, and was ready before the end of December, 1957.

All winter, with two washrooms and two drinking fountains, classes had a short indoor recess and a longer outdoor recess each morning, and an indoor recess only, each afternoon, from November until the end of April, 1958, at which time the new auditorium was completed and the girls' large basement washroom was made available. Then the ordinary outdoor recess routines were resumed, to the great relief of Staff and pupils.

According to Mr. Marchant, who has witnessed much school building, the workmanship throughout this school is excellent.

The new school is to be officially opened by Mrs. Ella Norman, Board Chairman, on Monday, May 5, 1958.

Tribute is hereby paid to the members of the teaching staff for their extreme co-operation during the building, etc., to the parents for helpfulness and consideration, to the maintenance staff and the school custodians, and lastly but not least, to the pupils of the school for their wonderful adaptability and understanding, as exhibited during all the changes in routines necessitated by an entire year of construction and transition.

A Summary of the Weston Educational System

The beginnings of educational life in Weston were inaugurated by a retired army schoolmaster named Captain John Pirritte who came to Canada in 1824, and settled in Weston in 1833, then called "The Humber". He resided in a small clapboard house on the west side of Main Street at a point almost opposite Rectory Road. Having several small children of his own, he was anxious to establish a school, and with the assistance of neighbours who likewise had children to be educated, he turned part of his house into what was to be the village's first school. The attendance increased and in 1842 the school was moved directly across the road to the east side of Main Street. Soon after, Captain Pirritte handed the mantle to Major John Paul, another army school master. During Major Paul's tenure, the council of the Home District took charge of the Weston Common School and on April 12, 1849, purchased a piece of property situated at the corner of Main and Rectory Road as a first site of a Common School in the village. The consideration was the sum of "five shillings of lawful money of Canada". In 1850 Major Paul was succeeded in the Principalship by a Mr. Anderson who did much to build up the school. In 1860 a modern brick two-roomed school was built on the same site. Above the door was the Latin inscription "Pro bono publico". This building was later sold for commercial purposes. In the 1950's it was torn down to make room for the Westlyte Apartments at 285 Main Street North.

Among the principals of this famous building was Mr. R. H. Leighton who was in charge from April, 1867, until the closing of the building in 1892 when old "Pro bono publico" was sold, and the Board purchased a new site on King Street, erecting six rooms of the Old King Street School. Mr. Leighton resigned in 1894 and was succeeded by Mr. F. G. Brethour, who in turn was followed

by Mr. Robert Cowling. He was succeeded by Mr. W. W. Hiltz, who resigned in 1901 to accept a similar position in Toronto. Later Mr. Hiltz was elected Mayor of Toronto in 1924. Mr. Leighton again relieved as principal for a short time and in September, 1902, Mr. F. A. MacKenzie was appointed Principal and remained until April, 1903. Mention must be made of the services of Miss Edith M. Lee who was appointed as first assistant in 1897 and gave continuous service, most efficiently, until her retirement in 1932. In April, 1903, Mr. H. J. Alexander was appointed to the staff as principal to succeed Mr. MacKenzie, and held that position to the time of his retirement.

In 1911 four additional rooms were added to King Street School and the renovated building was opened on January 3, 1912, classes having been held in the meantime in basements of churches, the town hall, and in many Sunday School rooms.

As early as 1903 the advisability of teaching music in the school was discussed, but it was not until 1937, when a supervisor of music was appointed for Weston Schools, that this work was begun in earnest.

In 1904 a system of fire-drill was inaugurated and has been in force ever since.

In 1916 the old Public School Board was abolished, and both High and Public Schools came under the supervision of one Board of Education.

Following the retirement of Mr. H. J. Alexander in 1943, Miss Katherine W. Campbell was made acting principal, and later principal of the school until her retirement (Mrs. R. R. Simpson for her last year as principal) in June, 1956. At that time, the vice-principal, Mr. Harvey Jeffery, was appointed to be the new principal, beginning in September, 1956. His assistant is Mr. W. G. Goddard, formerly of the Weston Collegiate Staff.

PRINCIPALS OF THE OLD KING STREET SCHOOL

1892-1894	Mr. R. H. Leighton	
1894-April, 1901	Mr. F. C. Brethour Mr. Robert Cowling Mr. W. W. Hiltz	exact dates are not available
April, 1901- June, 1901	Mr. R. H. Leighton relieved as principal	
September, 1901- April, 1903	Mr. F. A. MacKenzie	
April, 1903- June, 1943	Mr. H. J. Alexander	
1943-1956	Miss K. W. Campbell (Mrs. T. R. Simpson for the last year)	
1956-1957*	Mr. L. J. H. Jeffery	

*Continued as principal of the new King Street School.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION—the old General Register and Log Book.

NEW KING STREET SCHOOL

